

Sub C2  
17. (AMENDED) A method for breaking the dormancy or quiescence of a plant comprising the steps of:

providing an agricultural composition comprising at least one lipo  
chitooligosaccharide (LCO) and an agriculturally suitable carrier; and  
applying the composition in the vicinity of a seed, tuber or root in an  
effective amount to enable a breaking of the dormancy or quiescence of  
said seed, tuber, or root, in comparison to an untreated seed, tuber, or root.

Sub C3  
26. (AMENDED) A method for enhancing seed germination, seedling emergence or growth of a plant crop comprising the steps of:

providing a rhizobial strain which expresses a lipo chitooligosaccharide (LCO); and

incubating the rhizobial strain in the vicinity of one of a seed or root of said plant such that said LCO enhances seed germination, seedling emergence or growth of said plant crop, wherein said incubation enhances seed germination, seedling emergence or growth in comparison to a non-inoculated seed or root of said plant.